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EPA

Superfund Fact Sheet

SPOKANE COUNTY

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

August 5, 1993

COLBERT LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE
Colbert, Washington

This fact sheet announces a public comment period on Key Tronic's completion of their financial responsibilities for the Colbert Landfill site. It also includes information on the groundwater final pump and treatment system, how the associated equipment will look, and where it will be located. In addition, answers to the questions raised at the April 27, 1993 Colbert Landfill Contaminate Area Committee meeting are included.

Washington Department of Ecology Requests Public Comment

Under the terms of the 1989 legal agreement (consent decree) that established responsibilities for the cleanup activities at the Colbert Landfill, KeyTronic Corporation agreed to pay $4.2 million dollars. The money was paid into a trust fund to help pay for cleanup activities.

KeyTronic has completed this financial obligation and has applied for a Certificate of Completion from the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A Certificate of Completion is a legal document certifying that, based on currently know information, KeyTronic's financial obligation is complete. Under Washington state law, the Certificate of Completion is subject to public comment.

The comment period on the proposed Certificate of Completion will be held from **August 16 to September 30, 1993**. Copies of the Consent Decree and the Certificate of Completion are available for review at the following locations:

North Spokane Library
East 44 Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane, WA

Washington Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
North 4601 Monroe Street
Spokane, WA

Colbert Elementary School
East 4526 Green Bluff Rd.
Colbert, WA

EPA Region 10
Records Center, 7th Floor
1200 6th Ave
Seattle, WA

Please send written comments to **Mike Kuntz,** Site Manager, Dept. of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 or call him at **206-438-3079.**

Construction begins on the Groundwater Treatment Plant

EPA and Ecology have reviewed and approved the plans for the groundwater treatment system including: the extraction wells, the underground pump houses, piping, air stripper, and treatment system. Spokane County (County) awarded the construction contracts and construction has begun.

The air stripper treatment plant will be located off Elk-Chatteroy Road on the transfer station access road. The building will be on the east side of the access road between the road and the landfill. The plant building will contain the equipment for the air stripping tower and a small office. The air stripping tower will be about 70 feet tall and will be partially hidden from the access road and Chatteroy Road by the building. There will continue to be a

small buffer of pine trees and scrub between Chatteroy Road and the plant. A grassed area will be planted in front of the building and the building will be encircled by a gravel driveway. The plant and grounds will be enclosed by a chain-link fence similar to the one already at the transfer station.

The existing extraction wells will be located in concrete vaults buried at ground level. Metal grates will be secured over the vaults to prevent accidents and vandalism.

Discharge Requirements to Little Spokane River Being Developed

The treatment system design calls for the treated water to be discharged to the Little Spokane River through the existing pipeline. The discharge is required to meet Ambient Water Quality Standards established by EPA and Ecology under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES discharge limits ensure that the water quality of the Little Spokane River is not degraded.

Ecology has been working with the County to gather needed water quality data. This data is being used to develop limitations, called effluent limits, on the discharge from the system. A formal permit is not required under the Superfund process, but the discharge must still meet these requirements. Once these limits have been drafted, Ecology will prepare a fact sheet explaining the NPDES requirements and ask for your comments. This fact sheet is expected to be mailed to you in December.

Citizen Concerns and Questions About the Remedy

On April 27, 1993, the Colbert Landfill Contaminate Area Committee (CLCAC) hosted a public informational meeting. At this meeting, consultants for the CLCAC provided an overview of several County reports. During this overview presentation, the following questions were raised by the community members. The questions and responses have been divided into categories for easier reference. Responses were developed by EPA, Ecology, Spokane County, and the Spokane Regional Solid Waste Disposal Project.

Air Quality Concerns

Comment:
Several people expressed their concern that the air stripping tower will transfer the contamination from the groundwater to the air. Once in the air, the contamination could fall to the ground contaminating the earth, affecting agriculture crops in the area, and potentially re-contaminating the groundwater.

Response:

Volatile organics of concern including Methylene chloride and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) are chemicals which evaporate rapidly when exposed to air. As water moves through the air stripper, the chemicals are stripped from the water molecules and are mixed with air being blown through the stripper. Computer modeling of the projected air releases indicate that chemicals are below levels which would adversely pact human health. The modeling shows that methylene chloride and TCA will be diluted by the time they leave the air stripper stack and would not be measurable 20 feet from the top of the stack. The modeling was done for both clear weather and during an simulated stagnant air pattern. In addition, these chemicals biodegrade much faster when exposed to the ultra violet in sunlight.

The Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority has been provided with the project design criteria and has not commented that any aspect of the air stripper would be in violation of air quality standards.

Groundwater Contamination Plumes

Background:
The groundwater contamination plumes are about 1 1/2 miles long and 1/2 mile wide. The plume in the upper aquifer moves south and the deeper plume moves west towards the Little Spokane River. The highest levels of TCA currently found in the plume are 4,200 parts per billion (ppb) at monitoring wells near the landfill itself. The lowest levels of TCA in the plume are at the edges and are less than 1 ppb. The drinking water standard for TCA is 200 ppb. This standard is called the Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL).

Comment:
Several people expressed concern that the southern extent of the groundwater plume would not be captured by the extraction system wells once they are installed.

Response:

According to the Consent Decree, any contaminated water passing by the extraction well barriers has to meet drinking water standards. The system is being designed to capture the plume and the extraction wells are being placed at the leading edge of the plume. Contaminant levels at this point are well below drinking water standards. Monitoring will continue to ensure that these barrier wells are effective.

Comment:
Other people expressed concern that the eastern portion of the landfill area is not being monitored enough. They were concerned that eastern extent of the plume is not well defined and therefore is not going to be covered by the extraction and treatment system.

Response:

The groundwater contamination is found mainly to the south and west of the landfill, so more extraction system wells are located in those areas. In the upper aquifer, the groundwater flows to the south and in the lower aquifer, it flows west towards the Little Spokane River. It is anticipated that the extraction system wells to the north and south of the landfill will control plume movement to the east. Monitoring will continue to ensure that these wells are effective in controlling the migration to the east.

Comment:
Concern was also expressed that water quality data collected during the domestic well water sampling program is not being correlated with the groundwater monitoring data or with seasonal variations in the water table.

Response:

The domestic well monitoring program is designed to protect public health. Sampling data from this program is used to track plume migration over time. The domestic wells were not always located in the correct locations or correct depth in the aquifer to provide data needed for designing the system. Therefore, the County installed monitoring wells at specific locations and depths in the aquifers to ensure that the extraction system would be designed and located properly.

Comment:
Citizens are concerned about how much the extraction system would affect their private wells. They are concerned that water levels in their wells will be dramatically reduced

Response:

The system is not expected to impact most domestic wells. There may be a few wells located near an extraction well which may experience some slight lowering of the water table, but pump tests run during the pilot project indicated there should not be any noticeable effects. Because some of the effects of extraction well pumping can not be predicted, any changes in domestic well water quality or quantity will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The County is obligated to provide adequate water to owners whose wells are negatively impacted by the extraction system.

Other Issues

Comment:
Several people expressed concern about whether chemicals from the new compost facility could migrate into the groundwater.

Response:

Ecology and the Spokane County Health Department are responsible for reviewing and approving the composting facility permit. EPA does not have any regulations regarding composting facilities. Plans for the facility include a monitoring system under the compost pile to determine if any contamination from the compost is seeping into the ground. The facility will have a concrete pad for sorting and processing of the compost before it is placed in the compost piles.

Comment:
Several people believed the construction of the remedy is taking too long and the agencies involved aren't telling people enough about the project.

Response:

When the County, Ecology and EPA signed the legal paperwork for design and construction of the remedy, information was shared with the community about the project and the length of time it would take to properly design the remedy. The project was divided into three phases: the construction and testing of the pilot system (1989-1991); engineering evaluation of the pilot system (1991-1992); and design and construction of final system (1992-1993). Throughout this time the agencies have provided written updates on the site.
In addition, Spokane County and CLCAC have hosted several meetings to share information about the project during the last few years. If you have any other ideas on how the agencies can improve our communication with you, please call one of the people listed belo

For More Information

If you would like more information about the cleanup work at Colbert Landfill, please contact one of the following project managers:

Dean Fowler, Project Manager
Spokane County Utilities
1026 West Broadway
Spokane, WA 99260-0180
(509) 456-3604

Neil Thompson, Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Ave, HW-113
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-7177 or 1-800-424-4372

Mike Kuntz, Project Manager
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(206) 438-3079 or **1-800-458-0920**

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (HW-117-CR)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

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